POL 51: Scientific Study of Politics

Professor Brad Jones

Fall Quarter 2009

Assignment 2: R and Data

Overview

This assignment asks you to collect a small amount of data, plot it, and describe the plot. Additionally, I’m asking you to do some problems from Verzani. This assignment is due Thursday, Oct. 16.

Questions

1. Identify an independent and dependent variable and collect (minimally) 20 observations of each. For example, if you believe that presidential approval was related to the economy, then your dependent variable might be the president’s approval ratings and the independent variable might be the inflation rate. Explain why you have chosen these particular data and discuss what you think is the relationship between the dependent and independent variables. Data can be found anywhere and everywhere! Be creative. (25 points)

2. Using R, enter these data as two vector objects and then construct an xy plot of the data (similar to what we did with the anti-Hispanic hate crime data). The plot should be appropriately labeled and titled. Make sure the independent and dependent variables are on the correct axes. Include the plot in the work you turn in. (15 points)

3. Provide a detailed interpretation of your plot. What are the main features of the plot? What, if anything, do you learn about the relationship between x and y? Be specific and interpret your plot using substantive language. (25 points)

4. Do the following problems from Verzani. To do these, you will need to install the package UsingR.
   Problem 1.20, 1.23, 2.4. (5 points each)